

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 1–7, 9–12, 14–21, 34–50, 60, 63, 69, 71–73, 75, 86, 113–116, 119, 121–133 are currently pending in this application. Claims 8, 13, 22–33, 51–59, 64–68, 70, 74, 76–85, 87–112, and 120 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 61, 62, 117, and 118 were previously canceled. Claims 1–4, 10, 14–21, 34, 36–43, 47, 48, 50, 60, 63, 69, 71–73, 86, 113–116, 119, 121–127, 130, 132, and 133 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1–21, 37–50, 113–116, and 119–133 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 34–36, 60, 67, and 86 because they are dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 34 has rewritten into independent form and incorporates the subject matter of claim 22. Claim 60 has rewritten into independent form and incorporates the subject matter of claims 51 and 54. The subject matter of claim 67 has been incorporated into claim 63.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 94 and 95 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,339,422 to Brender et al. (hereinafter “Brender”).

Claims 51–53, 63–66, 68, 70–72, and 104–109 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,854,913 to Goetz et al. (hereinafter “Goetz”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 22–33, 54–59, 69, 73–85, 87–93, 96–103, and 110–112 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goetz in view of Brender and U.S. Patent No. 5,764,947 to Murphy et al. (hereinafter “Murphy”).

Because claim 67 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter (which has been incorporated into claim 63), dependent claims 69, 71–73, and 75 should also be in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims were all indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b), 35 USC §102(e), and 35 USC §103(a) rejections of the claims respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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